“If we are to make a difference in the lives of these wonderful young people, we must commit to providing them with opportunity that they wouldn’t encounter elsewhere. We have to introduce them to ideas, pathways and people to help them first form, and then realize, their dreams.”

–JACK CONNORS, JR.
Chairman, Camp Harbor View
2018 Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

In a year that was marked by political discord, natural and man-made disasters and a general sense of unease about the direction of our country and the world, Camp Harbor View provided 1,000 kids a safe and happy place in which to belong, learn and grow.

After a terrific summer season at our Long Island campus in Boston Harbor we moved into our new South End location for academic year programming. The response to the new location and to the new grade-specific curriculum for teens has been very enthusiastic and we know that we’re having a greater impact on more of Boston’s youth than ever before.

This is important work. If we are to bridge the economic divide and address racial equity, we must first provide opportunity, and that is in large part what Camp Harbor View is all about. The young people we serve in our programs are being introduced to new experiences, new ideas and new relationships that will sustain and support them into the future.

We hope that you enjoy perusing this report and that it gives you a sense of what you have helped create. Your support of the programs we have developed and the young people we serve is absolutely essential and greatly appreciated. Together, we’re building a better future for Boston.

With gratitude,

SHARON MCMANUS
President, Camp Harbor View
ACTION CIVICS COURSE

This summer we added an Action Civics component to the Leader in Training (LIT) program in an effort to prepare LITs to be thoughtful, committed, and engaged citizens. Through this program each young person learned more about local, national, and international socio-political issues as well as community organizing, movement building, and developing social capital. The highlight of this summer’s course was a roundtable with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. The robust discussion lasted nearly two hours and evolved into a poignant dialogue on policy with the Mayor. LITs raised concerns about a number of issues ranging from affordable housing development to gun violence and left feeling empowered to make a difference in their communities.

EMPHASIS ON HEALTH

We are proud to offer the youth we serve opportunities beyond the traditional summer camp experience. Our focus on health is one example. During each summer session, campers receive on-site dental and vision exams through partnerships with ForsythKids and Mass Eye & Ear, making important preventative care accessible in a safe, comfortable environment. Additionally, the annual Partners HealthCare Career Fair offers opportunities for Leaders in Training and campers alike to explore careers in healthcare. By engaging in skill workshops with clinicians and health professionals, our youth learn more about various fields from physical therapy to radiology.
1,061 YOUTH PICKED UP FROM 13 NEIGHBORHOODS ON 14 SCHOOL BUSES

28,000 MEALS PREPARED AND SERVED OVER 8 WEEKS OF CAMP

6,930 POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE LOCALLY SOURCED
4 WEEKS OF FREE SUMMER CAMP

15 CORPORATE VOLUNTEER DAYS HOSTED BY CAMP HARBOR VIEW

700+ VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS FROM 35 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

500 BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES
In the spring of 2018, Camp Harbor View embarked on an effort to enhance our school year program and redesign our structure in order to best serve Boston’s youth. We launched a new 9th grade program to fill the gap between when our kids age out of camp and when they are eligible to join the LIT program.

Camp Harbor View’s Leadership Academy is a program dedicated to leadership development for young people in grades 9-12. Participants will leave the Leadership Academy with a well-defined post-secondary plan and equipped with the tools and skills to succeed in college and beyond.

9TH GRADE RISE PROGRAM
▷ Weekday curriculum night including homework help, one-on-one support, special guest speakers and time with peers.
▷ Monthly Saturday workshop on topics ranging from the development of self-awareness to social justice.

LEADER IN TRAINING (LIT) PROGRAM
▷ Designated weekday program night specific to each grade with homework help, one-on-one support, special guest speakers and time with peers.
▷ Monthly Saturday workshop on topics ranging from career exploration to college applications and financial aid.
▷ Pairing with youth workers for three years who serve as mentors and coaches as LITs navigate high school and prepare their post-secondary plans.
▷ Paid summer job at Camp Harbor View, serving as junior camp counselors and near-peer mentors to campers.
158 students in grades 9-12 enrolled in Leadership Academy program

- 9th grade: 66
- 10th grade: 42
- 11th grade: 28
- 12th grade: 22

On average, participants each spent 85 hours in programming.

6,000 square foot space holds Leadership Academy programming

6 days per week throughout the school year.

32 Leadership workshops held in 2018.
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Recognizing both the importance and the rising cost of higher education, the Camp Harbor View scholarship program is dedicated to supporting students pursuing Bachelor’s, Associate’s, or technical post-secondary degrees. Each year Camp Harbor View awards scholarships of up to $10,000 per year to deserving college students who participated in our Leader in Training program throughout high school. Since 2011, Camp Harbor View has awarded $1.2 million in scholarships to help 108 future leaders attend 66 colleges and universities, including Boston College, Howard University, UMass Amherst and Stanford University.

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For many of our families, the holidays can be a stressful time forcing them to decide between putting food on the table and purchasing gifts for their children. Through our holiday assistance program, we are able to alleviate a portion of that distress by engaging donors to purchase necessities, including food and winter coats as well as wish list items for Camp Harbor View families who have the greatest financial need. In 2018, because of the generosity of several Camp Harbor View corporate and individual donors, we provided 230 families with a Thanksgiving meal and over 90 families gift assistance, enabling over 300 children to share in the spirit of the season.

Because my husband and I both work, summer camp has always been a necessity for our daughter Khandace. Finding Camp Harbor View was a saving grace for us. At camp Khandace explored many activities like arts and crafts, theater and step team that schools are no longer able to afford. Camp was also great for her socially; she made a lot of friends and they’ve grown up together in the program. The opportunities for Khandace at Camp Harbor View have been terrific and much more than other programs we’ve found. It’s not just a summer camp.

When we heard about the pilot program for 9th graders, we knew she should participate. The 9th grade is a transitional year and the 9th grade RISE program has really helped Khandace find her voice, build her confidence and be more inquisitive about her surroundings. It’s given her a platform to share ideas and speak her mind both individually and in a group and the workshops are a great opportunity for her to think about more than just academics. Being here with her Camp Harbor View friends energizes her. It’s a terrific place for kids to learn more about themselves.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

As I reflect on my first year at Camp Harbor View, there are so many incredible moments that will stay with me for a lifetime.

I watched 11 year old campers step onto the Provincetown II ferry on their first day at Camp Harbor View and wonder, having never been on Boston Harbor before, where exactly is this “island” you are taking me to. I saw them grow more comfortable and confidently explain to guests coming to visit camp the route the boat takes, how long the trip takes, and what islands surround our camp on Long Island.

I screamed with delight as I witnessed one of our Leaders in Training teach his 8th grade camper how to ride a bike. These are the special moments that so many of our young people experience for the first time with us in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. At Camp Harbor View, our kids have access to the opportunities that they deserve, and I feel fortunate to have led this incredible program for the first time this summer. I shed happy tears as I got to know the Camp Harbor View families, their stories, and what makes this organization so unique and special.

“It is important to remember that this journey doesn’t end after the summer.”

We continue to build on the summer memories and opportunities throughout the school year with our teens and their families in our new Leadership Academy in the South End of Boston. The Leadership Academy provides an opportunity for our teens to build on the skills they began to develop during the summer and maximize the relationships with their staff mentors who will support their ability to thrive in high school and beyond.

Looking back on the 900 campers on island this summer and the 150 young people in our Leadership Academy program year round, I am honored and inspired to continue to do my best work on behalf of the amazing community we serve. Camp Harbor View has spent the past 12 years cultivating the imagination and spirit of Boston’s youth— and truth be told, I think our potential is boundless. We are just getting started.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our community.

LISA FORTENBERRY
Executive Director, Camp Harbor View
BUSINESS BREAKFAST

On April 10, 180 Camp Harbor View supporters gathered at Fenway Park for a Spring Business Breakfast featuring a fireside chat with Alex Cora. Camp Harbor View Board Member and Red Sox President and CEO, Sam Kennedy joined Cora and Camp Harbor View co-founder Jack Connors to discuss the upcoming baseball and camp seasons. Alumnus Jarred DeVance also shared the personal impact Camp Harbor View had on his childhood with the audience. After the incoming Red Sox Manager received a warm Boston welcome at the early spring breakfast, Cora went on to lead his team to a record breaking season culminating in a World Series Championship. Our team made the 12th summer season at Camp Harbor View just as memorable for over 1,000 of Boston’s youth.

ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY

Volunteers of all ages enjoyed a beautiful spring Saturday on Long Island for our annual clean-up day and worked hard to restore our campus following several major winter storms. With the help of more than 100 people, the day was filled with preparations for the upcoming summer season. The volunteers took on a variety of projects from sanding and staining picnic tables and painting decks to weeding garden beds and collecting debris along the shoreline. Thanks to the Camp Harbor View community’s many hours of hard work, the island looked pristine upon the campers’ arrival on the first day of our 12th season.
On June 2, Camp Harbor View celebrated the 11th annual Beach Ball. Co-chairs Jack Connors, Jr., Joe Nolan of Eversource Energy and Dr. Peter Slavin of Massachusetts General Hospital hosted a record breaking evening at The Warehouse at Black Falcon Cruise Terminal with over 800 Camp Harbor View champions. The evening’s powerful program included a captivating speech by Executive Director Lisa Fortenberry, moving remarks from Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker and a standing ovation for Stanford student and Camp Harbor View alumna, Joddy Nwankwo.

Camp Harbor View Board Member Bryan Rafanelli and his team at Rafanelli Events produced another unforgettable event as guests enjoyed a special performance by Grammy Award winning trumpeter Chris Botti along with dinner and dancing to Vali Entertainment.
CITYTHON 5K

On November 17, over 750 elite and recreational runners gathered at the Boston Common to participate in the 3rd annual Citython 5k presented by Sheehan Family Companies. Boston Police Commissioner Willy Gross and Executive Producer, NESN TV Personality and Camp Harbor View Advisory Council member Jenny Johnson kicked off the festivities, welcoming runners, volunteers, and supporters at the starting line. The sun broke through cloudy skies just in time for runners to course through Boston’s iconic Back Bay neighborhood on a route designed by Dave McGillivray and his team at DMSE Sports. After the race, participants enjoyed a post-race brunch bash featuring B.GOOD wraps and Craft Brewers Guild beer, wine and cider, live musical entertainment and prizes galore.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY RIBBON CUTTING

On October 24, Camp Harbor View officially cut the ribbon on a new 6,000 square foot space which is open year-round in Boston’s South End. At the opening, Co-founder Jack Connors, Jr., President Sharon McNally and Executive Director Lisa Fortenberry were joined by Mayor Marty Walsh, who spoke of how Camp Harbor View has grown into “so much more than a camp.” The center is Camp Harbor View’s off-island location, home to our Leadership Academy, which is comprised of the RISE program and the Leader in Training program, as well as host to parent workshops and family support services throughout the year.
VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

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OUR MISSION

Camp Harbor View changes lives and enhances Boston by exposing underserved youth to the possibilities of a future they may have never envisioned. We provide unique experiences that let kids be kids, build confidence, unlock creativity, broaden horizons, and foster skills for successful lives.

Our exceptional year-long program helps kids envision new pathways to success by providing life-shaping experiences at a critical time in their lives.
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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Camp Harbor View

Take a tour of our summer camp or Leadership Academy.
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